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July 3, 1996

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 222
Washington, D. C. 20554

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JUL 3 1996
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Re: Ex Parte - CC Docket 96-98
Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

Dear Mr. Caton:

On Friday, June 28, 1996, representatives of Beechwood Data Systems, Bell Atlantic and AT&T met with Mr. Stuart Kupinsky, Mr. Augie Ros, and Mr. Robert Tanner of the CCB Policy and Program Planning Division to discuss the need for parity of operational support system interfaces between ILEC and CLEC providers. We discussed how these electronic interfaces between CLEC and ILEC operational support systems should be established using electronic gateway that would enable CLECs to transmit and receive information necessary to order, provision, maintain, and bill services similar to the procedures an ILEC uses for its own customers. These interfaces would support real-time number assignment and scheduling of service visits, and ensure parity in ordering and changing of service, maintenance, billing, etc. We agreed that such gateways would allow, and should use, uniform nationwide interfaces that would include standard transaction sets and data elements, transmitted via networks scaled to the requirements of the CLEC or ILEC. An Ex Parte documenting the meeting was filed on Monday, July 1, 1996.

As requested by the Commission staff, attached is language agreed to by AT&T, Beechwood Data Systems and Bell Atlantic that provides further detail on the standards that must be established to implement parity in operational support system interfaces, and the manner in which the Commission should direct that such standards be established.

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In accordance with Section 1.1206(a)(1) of the Commission's Rules, two (2) copies of this Notice are being to the Secretary of the FCC.

Sincerely,

Bruce K. Cox

Attachment

**cc: Mr. Stuart Kupinsky
Mr. Augie Ros
Mr. Robert Tanner
Ms. Patricia Koch
Mr. James Pachuski
Mr. David Swan
Mr. Paul Hummel
Mr. Robert Riedel**

Transaction sets must be created to support the functions of pre-ordering and ordering,¹ provisioning,² repair and maintenance,³ and billing.⁴ The Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions already has responsibility for defining these transaction sets and will determine the appropriate industry committee required to complete the definition process. These transactions sets must consist of standard data elements at a sufficient level of software addressable components to facilitate electronic gateways. We expect that, given the appropriate guidance from the Commission, the industry can achieve consensus on sufficient data elements and formatting conventions to facilitate that 95% of all inter-telecommunications company transactions may be processed via electronic gateways within twelve months.

¹ Pre-ordering and ordering is described as the process wherein local service providers and network providers interactively exchange information about current and/or proposed end customer products/services and/or unbundled network elements and/or combinations thereof.

² Provisioning is described as the process wherein a local service provider executes a request for a set of products/services and/or unbundled network elements from a network provider with attendant acknowledgments and status reports.

³ Maintenance is described as the process by which a local service provider initiates a request for a repair of existing products/services and/or unbundled network elements with attendant acknowledgments and status reports.

⁴ Billing is described as the process by which a network provider provides appropriate usage data to facilitate end user billing with attendant acknowledgments and status reports. Additionally, billing is described as the process wherein local service providers and network providers interactively process claims and adjustments.